

AMENDMENTS TO THE ABSTRACT:

Please replace the abstract on page 37 with the following rewritten abstract:

A chemically inducible gene expression system is described. A chimeric gene having a first sequence comprising a promoter and a regulator polypeptide is linked with a second sequence comprising a promoter and a coding or non-coding sequence. Expression of the target gene of the second sequence is controlled by the regulator polypeptide which is acted upon by an inducer. The inducer is a chemical compound, such as OHP, which acts upon the OHP responsive regulator polypeptide, which can be obtained from *Rhodococcus* sp. V49. Various domain regions and complementary response elements are also described.

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